

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and further examination are requested.

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pickard (US 3,120,282).

Claim 3 has been amended so as to more clearly express the differences between the present invention, as recited therein, and the reference relied upon in the rejection. Further, new claims 5 and 6 have been added.

As a result, the above rejection is submitted to be inapplicable to the pending claims for the following reasons.

Claim 3 is patentable over Pickard, since claim 3 recites a remote operation wire line core sampling device including, in part, a water swivel assembly and an over-shot assembly for grasping an upper end portion of an inner tube assembly, wherein the water swivel assembly includes an upper water input port at an upper position of the water swivel assembly, the upper water input port adapted to allow pressurized fluid into the water swivel assembly, and a lower water input port at a lower position of the water swivel assembly, the lower water input port adapted to allow pressurized fluid into the water swivel assembly, and wherein the water swivel assembly accommodates the over-shot assembly at an intermediate position thereof between the upper water input port and the lower water input port such that the pressurized fluid is supplied from the upper water input port to lower the over-shot assembly through a drill rod to an upper end of the inner tube assembly. Pickard fails to disclose or suggest a water swivel assembly having two water input ports as recited in claim 3.

Pickard discloses a drilling apparatus including an overshot assembly 125 and a water swivel 20. The water swivel 20 has an end portion 21 that is connected to a threaded female end 18 of a drill stem 10 and another end portion (opposite to the end portion 21) that is connected to a hydraulic pump 25 via a pipe 22, a T-joint 23, and a pipe 24. (See column 5, lines 12-35 and Figures 1 and 2).

During operation of the drilling apparatus, when it is desired to retract a core barrel inner tube assembly from the bit end of the drill stem 10, the overshot assembly 125 is inserted into the drill stem 10. Then, the hydraulic pump 25 is activated to pump fluid into the drill stem 10 via the pipe 24, the T-joint 23, the pipe 22 and through the water swivel 20 (the fluid flowing from

the other end portion to the end portion 21 in the water swivel 20) to propel the overshot assembly 125 in a direction 153. (See column 11, line 63 – column 12, line 12 and Figure 15).

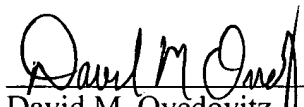
Based on the above discussion, it is clear that the water swivel 20 has only one fluid input port (i.e., the other end portion) that is adapted to allow pressurized fluid into the water swivel 20. The end portion 21 is clearly adapted only to allow pressurized fluid to output the water swivel 20 into the drill stem 10. Therefore, the water swivel 20 does not have an upper water input port at an upper position of the water swivel assembly, the upper water input port adapted to allow pressurized fluid into the water swivel assembly, and a lower water input port at a lower position of the water swivel assembly, the lower water input port adapted to allow pressurized fluid into the water swivel assembly. As a result, it is submitted that claim 3 is not disclosed or suggested by the drilling apparatus of Pickard.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 3-6 are allowable over Pickard. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to modify Pickard or to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 3-6. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 3-6 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Yukio KADOMOTO et al.

By: 
David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,356
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
September 24, 2008